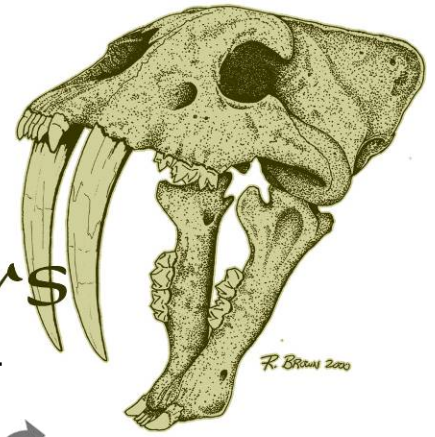


NEWS

Florida Fossil Hunters



Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc. dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters
Volume 24, Number 11

December 2014

From the President.....

Hope everyone got stuffed at Thanksgiving. Wishing all "Happy Holidays". Maybe Santa will bring you fossils and diggin' gear this Christmas.

If you missed our last meeting, you missed the guest speaker, Dr. Bruce MacFadden. He gave a wonderful talk on his experiences at FLMNH, the making of the Megalodon exhibit, the Fossil Project, etc. He really inspires people to learn more and get involved in the Natural Sciences. During his visit to OSC, he was impressed with all that we've worked on with the Science Center: new displays, Neanderthal Ball, Fossil Fest. But the one thing that got him excited was the "Women in Paleontology" event. (More inside this newsletter). We talked about him coming back next year for a meeting geared towards teaching and outreach for teachers. So if you are a teacher or know one, look for upcoming info on that event. Thank you, Bruce MacFadden, for your time and expertise. We look forward to your next visit.

The figures are in from the Fossil Fair and it did very well. More guests came, more volunteers donated their time (thank you!), and the club made more money. We are planning on spending some of that money on bigger, better auction items for the future..... and maybe some surprises.

The next meeting will be on Saturday, December 20th at 3pm Founders Room on the 3rd floor at OSC. Our program will mainly be the Fossil Bucks Auction (list in this newsletter). Also, if you would like to help your club be getting more involved, we'll be having our officer elections/re-elections.

We'll also discuss next year's agenda. A few items we'd like to include are:

- a fossil hunting trip to Yankeetown islands.
- only one fossil bucks auction instead of two.
- no meetings during June & July.

The board members and I would really your input on these and any other ideas that you club members would like to bring up. This is your club and member participation is vital.

With all said and done in 2014, I would like to wish all a healthy and prosperous new year.

Thanks for your support.

Russell Brown
President

Join Our Facebook group, Search:
Florida Fossil Hunters



Coming Events

UPCOMING MEETINGS at the Orlando Science Center

Saturday, December 20th
3 pm Meeting at OSC
& Fossil Bucks Auction

Our January club meeting
will not be at OSC and/or
on a day other than the
3rd Saturday.

Details at our December
meeting and in the
January newsletter.

More events listed on back page

For more info...
www.floridafossilhunters.com

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Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fragments

The FOSSIL Project

During the past year, you may have heard me talking about or read about "The FOSSIL Project". Dr. Bruce MacFadden also talked about this great outreach program. Fossil clubs and museums throughout the nation and abroad are taking part in this 1st-of-its-kind idea. There are so many opportunities for everyone to participate that I could write an entire newsletter about it. If you would like to know more or be involved, visit:

www.myFOSSIL.org

www.facebook.com/TheFossilProject

Twitter@projectFOSSIL

Meeting, Saturday, Dec 20th

We'll be in the Founder's Room at the Orlando Science Center on the 3rd floor at 3 pm for the December meeting and Fossil Bucks Auction. Gather all the bucks you've earned probably stashed in several places. We have some great items up for bid.

We'll also elect new officers/board members for the coming year and discuss plans for 2015. We won't have a dinner/party this year but feel free to bring cookies or brownies, etc. (nothing messy) We'll have water for those of you who don't bring their own tea, juice, or water. (no alcohol, please)

Parking in the garage costs \$5 unless you are a member of the Science Center. There is free parking near the theater and across the street at the medical building.

See you there!

Kids' Fossil Blast

There were lots of horse teeth and bones to look at and talk about at our program in November. And there are always good questions from you kids!

Our next Kids' program will probably be in February. Got a fossil or geology subject you'd like to learn about? Just email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com

Kids' Fossil Blast is an informal, hands-on experience with real fossils, casts, etc. aimed at kids ages 5 through 14.

Peace River Plans 2015

Boy Howdy, how about that rain? Sure we needed it, but the Peace River rose over 4 ft. in just one day! But since winter is our dry period, the water level will drop back down to a level that is good for feverish, fossil hunting fury.

In 2015, the club is planning on lots of Peace River fossil hunts.

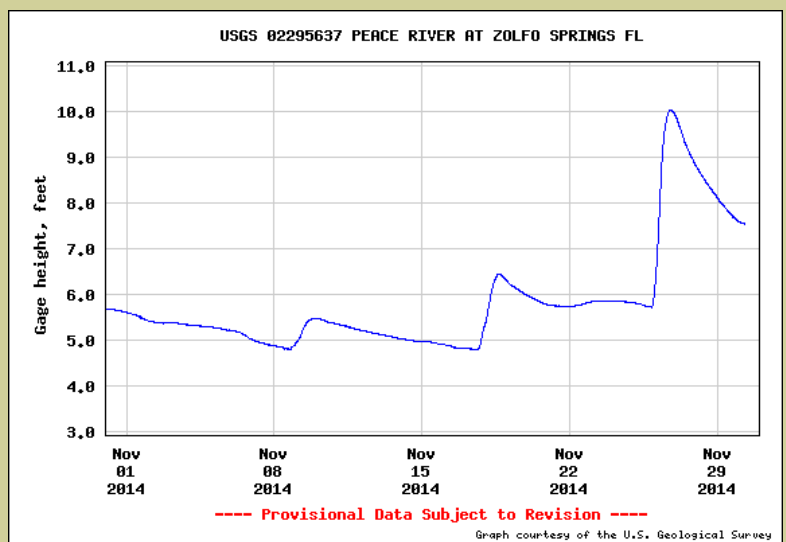
In previous years, we've held one river event, including a cook-out, camping, etc., but Mother Nature seemed to work against us. Instead of just one, I'd like to plan on the club going to the Peace River numerous times when the water is low and clear. This will give more opportunities for more of you to participate and enjoy the peace of the Peace. I'll be needing volunteers to pull this off... Bonnie & I can't go every weekend. I'm sure many of you would like a excuse to get in the water and hunt.

In April - assuming conditions will be right - we'll start canoeing and hunting at County Line Rd. in Bowling Green and get out at Rea Rd., just north of Wauchula. The next trip will be from Rea Rd. to Wauchula City Park; next from Wauchula to Zolfo Springs, working our way down the river each weekend. This way if you can't make it one weekend, you can probably make it on another.

If you've ever hunted any of these areas, we'll need you to volunteer to help those unfamiliar with that area. There are a lot of areas that are only accessible by canoe but there are also locations where people can just wade in and fossil hunt.

However, if you have extra canoes, kayaks, or screens it would be great if you would loan/rent them so others could participate and experience first-hand the thrill of finding fossils..... everyone needs a little "Peace".

Contact me if you are able to help.



Florida Fossil Hunters News

Mineral, Gem, & Fossil Show

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds will be holding their annual show on Dec. 5, 6, & 7, at a new venue: Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL 34669.

Admission: Adults \$3, Teens \$1, kids 12 & under free.

Directions: From Central Florida, take 50 west to US 19. Turn left and go south for 21 miles. Then turn left onto New York Ave, which becomes Hicks Rd. as it curves around. For more info email Ralph at info@withlacoocheerockhounds.com

The Tomoka Gem and Mineral Society

presents their 43rd Annual Jewelry, Gem and Mineral, Fossils Show and Sale on Volusia County Fairgrounds Tommy Lawrence Building State Route 44, Deland, FL (½ MILE EAST OF I-4, EXIT 118)

Sat., Jan 17th, 2015
- 10am - 6pm and

Sun., Jan. 18th, 2015
- 10am - 5pm

For more info, go to:
www.tomokagms.org

Megalodon: Largest Shark that Ever Lived

Exhibit Oct. 4, 2014 - Jan. 4, 2015, Florida Museum
The largest shark ever known is returning to Gainesville! Be consumed with awe at Megalodon, the gigantic prehistoric shark that once cruised the world's oceans. Walk through the full-scale jaw of a 60-foot-long shark sculpture to learn the story of this fantastic ancient creature, including its size, structure, diet, lifespan, relatives, neighbors, evolution, extinction and new science that continues to reveal Megalodon's tale. The object-rich exhibit features fossil specimens from several collections and life-size, scale models of other fossil and modern sharks. Tooth-shaped display units include actual Megalodon fossils, and the exhibit is rich in hands-on, family friendly activities. See more at: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/calendar/grid/megalodon-celebration/?eID=1121#sthash.NRYu6hYA.dpuf>

FL Museum of Natural History, Gainesville

A T. rex Named Sue | Jan. 24 - Sept. 13, 2015

Tyrannosaurus rex has long commanded respect and sparked curiosity in the mind of the public, and Sue is the most famous T. rex of all. At 42 feet long and 12 feet tall at the hips, her skeleton inspires as much awe today as she did 67 million years ago. In the featured exhibit "A T. rex Named Sue," explore how this remarkable creature interacted with its world and what we can learn from studying its bones. Revel in the sheer magnitude of a fully articulated, life-size skeleton cast while learning about Sue's movement, vision and sense of smell. Enjoy family-friendly interactives, climb into the dig pit to uncover fossils and learn about dinosaurs through touchable bone replicas and other hands-on activities. Follow Sue's sensational journey from the Cretaceous period and sedimentary rocks of South Dakota to the U.S. courts and finally the world. Come to the Florida Museum to experience the largest, most complete and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex ever discovered!

Fossil Permit Reports Due

- Time to Renew

We are at year's end. For those of you who have fossil permits for 2014, it is time to report any vertebrate fossils that you have collected (excludes sharks teeth) to Dr. Richard Hulbert at FLMNH. Since the club is planning on having a lot of Peace River fossil hunting trips in 2015, adults will need the 2015 permit, which costs just \$5. Children are covered under their parent's permit. This is the link to the website: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/vertpaleo/vppermit.htm>

For those of you who do not have access to computers, we will have copies of the applications/renewal info at the December meeting.

These annual reports are required to renew your permit. A lot of people approach me on this issue.... worried that the State will take the fossils from them. This is a misconception. The fossil itself is rarely valuable but the information about where it was found is. This gives the paleontologists the data needed to establish the extent of the land they inhabited as well as what layers of the past are exposed at those sites. Of course, should you be lucky enough to find something rare and exciting, they will ask you to donate the fossil..... but they will ASK, not confiscate. There are still many unanswered questions about Florida's past, and we all have the opportunity to contribute to finding the answers.

Thank you., Russell Brown

Women in Paleontology

In May 2015, the Florida Fossil Hunters will be holding its 2nd annual "Women in Paleontology" event at the Orlando Science Center. This year, Cindy Lockner will be our coordinator and we have a lot of support from the Florida Museum of Natural History.

This event is something I've been campaigning about for several years and I'm glad to see it happening.

We'd like women in any of the science professions, not just paleontology, to participate in this major outreach geared to provide career information to girls and women who think they might like a future in the scientific fields.

Last year, we were lucky enough to have Rachel Wentz, Carol Peterson, and several of our own fossil ladies to talk to the girls and women that came. I'm calling on you, the women of our club, to help Cindy make the 2015 event be the most exciting and best outreach ever.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Lockner (clockner@comcast.net) or Bonnie (bonnierussell62@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support., Russell Brown

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Turtles and dinosaurs:

Scientists solve reptile mysteries with landmark study on the evolution of turtles

Research results, appearing in *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, describe how a new genetic sequencing technique called Ultra Conserved Elements (UCE) reveal turtles' closest relatives across the animal kingdom. The new genetic tree uses an enormous amount of data to refute the notion that turtles are most closely related to lizards and snakes. Instead, authors place turtles in the newly named group "Archelosauria" with their closest relatives: birds, crocodiles, and dinosaurs. Scientists suspect the new group will be the largest group of vertebrates to ever receive a new scientific name.

Major findings also resolve an evolutionary mystery surrounding softshell turtles -- a bizarre group of scale-less turtles with snorkel-like snouts. Until now, studies linked softshell turtles with a smaller semi-aquatic group called mud turtles, despite the fact that softshells appear in the fossil record long before their mud-loving counterparts. The Academy's study places softshells in a league of their own

on the evolutionary tree, quite far removed from any turtle relatives. Their long independent history helps explain their striking looks as well as their ancient presence in the fossil record.

Parham notes that studying turtle fossils -- particularly the physical features of their bones -- hasn't always painted an accurate evolutionary picture of turtle relationships across continents and through time. "The turtle tree of life based on fossil turtle anatomy didn't match up with the timing of their appearance in the fossil record, as well as their geography," Parham says. "But the tree of life generated at the Academy's CCG is consistent with time and space patterns we've gathered from the fossil record. These new testing techniques help reconcile the information from DNA and fossils, making us confident that we've found the right tree."

Courtesy of Science Daily

Florida Fossil Hunters at the National Parks in Florida

Many of you club members know that we participate in "National Fossil Day" celebrations at different parks each year. Many of Florida's fossil clubs participate, doing talks/displays at various locations.

Recently, Bonnie & I took part in a couple of National Parks' events, talking about sharks - fossil and modern. This is part of our club's public outreach for education.

Canaveral National Seashore on the east coast, south of Turtle Mound, has a great set-up inside their visitor building. Besides getting to see Florida's pristine beaches (like I remember as a kid), they have kayaking, eco-tours, and an event held the third Wed. each month: "The Brown Bag Lunch Presentation". This is where Bonnie & I did a little talk on sharks. They also have an annual "Fossils at the Seashore", mostly geared for children but everyone is welcome. This event occurs about the same time of year as our Fossil Fair, but since they want us to participate, they are willing to work around our dates. When we iron out the schedule, I'll be asking for volunteers to come out and share their knowledge of Florida's fossils.

On a side note, Park Ranger Avia Woulard, showed me a

couple pictures of the rare Jaguarundi. This strange looking, small wildcat appears in Florida's fossil record but is thought to have went extinct here, although it still can be found from Texas to Argentina. Stories have it that someone brought a few to Florida in the early 1900's but sightings have not been confirmed. These unique cats hunt mainly at night and feed upon fish, frogs, and small mammals.

Key Biscayne National Park will host "Sharks in the Park" on Sunday, Dec. 14th. I agreed to go down and bring "a little" shark material and help out at this educational, family-geared event.

What I'm really trying to say is.... If you can't go fossil hunting and don't want to work on chores around the house, head to one of the many, National, State, or local parks or nature preserves. It's great for kids and a good get-away from the usual rat-race. You may even want to volunteer at your local park or help at special events.

Get out and explore our wild Florida. You'll thank me later.

Russell

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Fossil Bucks Auction List

Limit: 2 successful bids per membership

1. Amber necklace pendant
2. Stromatolite - Cyanobacteria, Pre-Cambrian, Morocco
3. Fossil Coral - Acervularia species, 400 mya, Mid-Devonian, Morocco
4. Meteorites - 3 in case: stony iron, iron, iron nickel
5. Polished mineral egg with opal
6. Coprolite specimen: This one really looks like fossilized poop
7. Large cluster over a foot long of Giant Barnacles, modern
8. Mineral specimen: Skarn, orange & yellow
9. Petrified wood: sliced, polished, cream/rust color, Indonesia
10. Shark tooth, Isurus hastalis, extinct Mako, 2"
11. Floating crinoid, Saccoma pectinata, Cretaceous, Soinhofen Formation, Germany
12. Spinosaurus tooth (over 2--1/2") & dinosaur bone piece, Cretaceous, Morocco
13. Polished ammonite, Goniatite, 33 mya, Morocco
14. White Tip Reef Shark jaw, Trianodon obesus
15. Fossil ferns on shale, Carboniferous/Pennsylvanian, St. Clair, PA
16. Mososaur tooth in case, 75 mya, Morocco
17. Giant Bear-dog lower jaw replica, (Jim Tatum), Early Miocene, N. Florida
18. Florida Fossil Hunter T-shirt (size Large) 3 colors to choose from
19. Petrified wood (2-3 lb piece) red/opalized color, western N. America
20. Dusky shark jaw, Carcharhinus obscurus, 1 foot wide
21. Manatee fossils: ear bone, jaw piece, rib piece
22. Bracelet: silver, copper, bronze - Mexico
23. Smilodon Christmas ornament
24. Quartz
25. Fossilized coral: large specimen cut in half, Florida

VULCAN MINE Field Trip

Vulcan Mine Field Trip near Brooksville

If you did not sign up at the September meeting, please call or email the trip leader at:

Saturday, December 13th

Trip Leader: Steve Chambers,

Email: stchamb1@outlook.com

Cell number: 321-806-0763

Mark your calendar for Sat, January 10th, trip leader, tbd

This is one of the few places where kids are allowed in to fossil hunt. Be sure to stay with them since there are steep cliffs, sharp rocks, and small sinkholes.

Meet on the driveway loop near the entrance to the Mine by 8:30 am to sign releases before we are escorted into the mine around 9 am. We get to drive our vehicles in so you can have your coolers, snacks, and equipment handy while you hunt. They usually allow us to dig until noon and sometimes people can stay till 2 pm.

All participants

MUST be escorted

into and out of the mine. Do not leave on your own since it is easy to become lost.

THERE ARE

NO RESTROOM

FACILITIES AT VULCAN, other than the boulders and the hills.

Directions: The trip will take approximately 2 hours from Orlando to Vulcan Mine. Be sure to allow for extra time to stop at a restroom before you get there.

From Orlando take Hwy. 50 west (or the 408 west to the FL Turnpike, take exit 272 and then continue west on Hwy. 50) to Brooksville. Follow 50A/98 North through Brooksville and turn right on Ponce De Leon Blvd. (Hwy 98 North). Go approximately 10 miles. Vulcan/Cemex will be on your left. The address is 16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, for those of you who want to download a map.

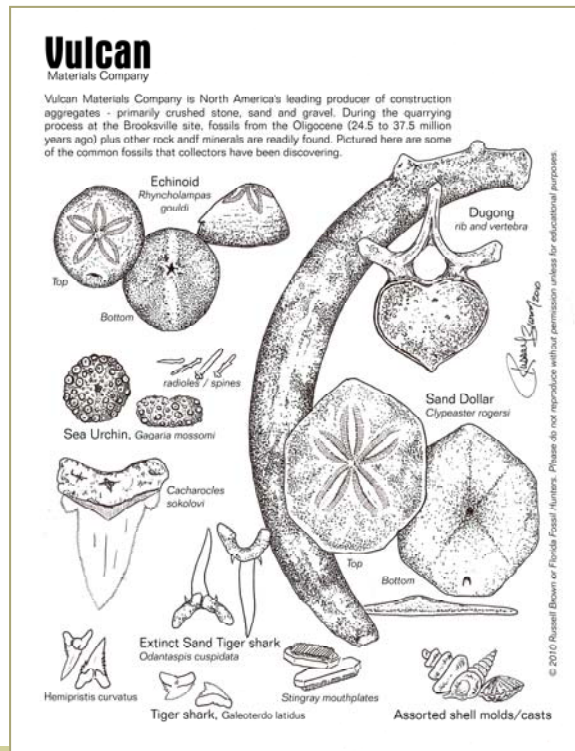
If you follow the truck route for Hwy. 50, you have to turn right onto 41, and then take the fork to the left to hook up with Ponce De Leon Blvd/98. There are several fast food places on 41 where you can take advantage of the bathroom facilities. Be sure NOT to keep following 41 north. You want to take 98 north from Brooksville.

This is mostly surface collecting with occasionally a little digging to pry out a specimen. Bring a small

trowel or screwdriver or rock hammer, and a bucket to put your fossils and rocks into. You may want to bring small containers and tissue for fragile fossils.

Wear a hat, sturdy shoes, long pants (some of the rocks are sharp), and sunscreen. Bring lots of water and/or drinks and some snacks or lunch to eat.

We find mostly echinoids and sometimes sea urchins, pieces of bone, or other fossils are found. We also find chert rocks. This is the material that the Indians used to make their arrowheads and tools.



ID Sheet above is available on the field trip and website.
floridafossilhunters.com/Field_Trips.htm

You MUST be a member of the club for insurance purposes to participate in this field trip.

Join Us
December
13th

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters

Membership Application

is a fun and educational group whose goal is to further our understanding of the prehistory of Florida. We encourage family participation and welcome explorers of all ages.

Membership is \$17 per year. Other household members may be included at no charge.

Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of the month but may vary with club activities. Check the website for the date and location of the next meeting or call one of the officers.

Officers:

President	Russell Brown	(352) 429-1058
Vice President	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Secretary	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Treasurer	Sara Morey	(619) 302-4863

Chairs:

Education	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Field Trips	OPEN	
Fossil Fair	Valerie First	(407) 699-9274
Fossil Auctions	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Bucks	Dave Dunaway	(407) 786-8844
Fossil Lotto	Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Membership	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
Newsletter	Bonnie Cronin	(352) 429-1058
	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
Photography	John Heinsen	(407) 291-7672
Webmaster	Elise Cronin-Hurley	(407) 929-6297
	elise@lisedreams.com	

Board of Directors:

Melissa Cole	(407) 834-5615
Ed Metrin	(407) 321-7462
Dave Cass	(407) 409-9095
Shelley Zimmerman	(407) 891-1260
Marge Fantozi	
Marcia Wright	
Cindy Lockner	

Names: _____

Associate Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

_____ New _____ Renewal

Please list any interests, experience, talents or just plain enthusiasm, which you would like to offer to the club:

Membership is \$17 per year. Our membership year runs from January to December. All renewals are done in December and January.

Please make your checks payable to:

Florida Fossil Hunters
Post Office Box 540404
Orlando, Florida 32854-0404

Associate members are people in the same household, included at no extra charge, 2 adult votes per household.

Newsletter Policy

Articles must be submitted by the first of the month to be included in that month's newsletter. These can be mailed to the above Post Office Box or e-mailed to: bonnierussell62@gmail.com . Articles can be sent as text in the e-mail or in Microsoft Word files (.doc or .docx).

Please note in subject of email 'FFH'.

Florida Prehistorical Museum, Inc.
dba/ Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Fossil Hunters News

Florida Fossil Hunters Mark Your Calendar

See inside for more information on events.

December 5, 6, & 7
Withlacoochee Rockhounds Show

Saturday, December 6th
Mosaic Mine Dig

Saturday, December 13th
Vulcan Mine

Saturday, December 20th
3 pm Meeting at OSC
& Fossil Bucks Auction

Saturday, January 10th
Vulcan Mine

January 17th & 18th
Tomoka Gem & Mineral show

Oct. 4, 2014 - Jan. 4, 2015
Megalodon: Largest Shark that
Ever Lived Exhibit

Jan. 24 to Sept. 13, 2015 -
A *T. rex* Named Sue exhibit

***Our January club meeting will not be at OSC
and/or on a day other than the 3rd Saturday.
Details at our December meeting
and in the January newsletter.***

Be Green

Email Bonnie at bonnierussell62@gmail.com
to receive the newsletter via email.



Join Our Facebook group, Search:

[Florida Fossil Hunters](#)

facebook

Visit us online at www.floridafossilhunters.com

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